

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1112

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Commissioner Thomas Strickland for his meritorious service to the citizens of Knox County as the Knox County Commission Chairman.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Thomas “Tank” Strickland is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a Knoxville native, Commissioner Strickland graduated from Austin-East High School and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; these deep Knoxville roots have made him wholly devoted to ensuring that the quality of life in the greater Knoxville community is the best it can be; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected citizen of Knox County, Thomas Strickland was elected to the Knox County Commission in 2002, in which position he has earned the respect and admiration of his constituents and fellow commission members alike; just two years later, he was elected Chairman of the nineteen-member commission; and

WHEREAS, as Commission Chairman, Mr. Strickland is special assistant to and community relations director for Mayor Bill Haslam, serving with acumen and alacrity as a liaison between community organizations and the city, and overseeing the city’s Title VI and equal business opportunity programs; his other responsibilities and duties include serving on the police advisory and review committees and working with other city directors to increase minority employment and participation in city government; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Strickland has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community throughout his exemplary tenure as a county commissioner; and

WHEREAS, he has admirably served on the Finance and Arena Use committees, the National Association of Counties Health, the National Organization of Black County Officials, the National Association of Black County Officials, and the Tennessee County Service, in addition to the Beer Board, the University of Tennessee Arena Board, and the Pension and Retirement Board, which he has served as Vice-Chairman; and

WHEREAS, throughout his superlative career in public service, Thomas Strickland has rendered astute service on a number of committees and boards, including the Metropolitan Drug Commission Board; the Community Television Board; the Community Action Commission, of which he was Vice-Chairman; the Martin Luther King Commission; Great Schools Partnership Committee; the Development Corporation of Knox County Board; and the Regional Transportation Organization Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Strickland's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the community, Mr. Strickland has been a distinguished member of numerous boards and organizations, such as the Open Arms Foundation Board; the YMCA Metropolitan Board as an honorary member; the Alzheimer Association Board; the Alex Haley Scholarship Golf/Black Millennium Focus Committee; the Tennessee Men's Health Network, of which he was Treasurer; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; the First Book-East Tennessee Advisory Board; the Junior League Advisory Board; Knoxville Urban League; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; founding member of the University of Tennessee Black Alumni Association; Town Hall East; National Forum of Black Public Administrators; and the United Way, of which he was Co-Chair Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Strickland personifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his beloved wife, Terry, and their three children, Jacquai, Ashley, and Sheldon; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Strickland is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Commissioner Thomas Strickland for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Knox County as a county commissioner and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.